

BILL # HB 2065

TITLE: charter schools; teacher experience index

SPONSOR: Anderson

STATUS: As Introduced

REQUESTED BY: House

PREPARED BY: Steve Schimpp

FISCAL ANALYSIS

Description

The bill would permit charter schools to receive Teacher Experience Index (TEI) funding as part of their Basic State Aid. Both certificated and non-certificated teachers would be included in charter school TEI calculations under the bill.

Estimated Impact

We estimate that the bill would have an annual General Fund cost of \$6,053,000 beginning in FY 2008 if charter school certificated and non-certificated teachers combined have the same average level of experience as district school teachers.

Analysis

The TEI is a formula calculation that provides additional Basic State Aid funding to a school district if the average experience level of teachers in the district is greater than the average for the state. The formula provides additional funding by multiplying a district's Base Support Level (BSL) by the TEI, provided the TEI is greater than one. Currently the TEI is not applied to a charter school's BSL.

For FY 2008, total BSL funding for charter schools is estimated to be \$400,860,000, or 7% above the current JLBC Staff estimate for FY 2007 due enrollment growth and inflation funding. The average TEI that is currently being applied to school districts' BSL for FY 2006 is 1.0151 on a "weighted" basis (where the TEI for large school districts counts proportionally more than the TEI from small ones when computing the statewide average). Applying the current statewide average "weighted" district TEI to charter schools, therefore, would increase charter schools' BSL by an average of 1.51%. This would amount to an additional estimated state General Fund cost of \$6,053,000.

The actual cost of the bill would depend on the average experience level of certificated and non-certificated teachers in each charter school in the state. Unlike school districts, charter school teachers are not required to receive certification from the State Board of Education. The average experience levels of certificated and non-certificated charter school teachers is unknown because TEI data currently is not collected for them, but are believed to vary greatly from charter school to charter school.

The TEI is applied to a school district's BSL based on teacher experience level data provided to ADE by October 15 of the prior year. The department is required to compute the TEI for the following fiscal year for each district by March 15. The first opportunity for charter schools to submit data to ADE, therefore, would occur in FY 2007, and the first opportunity for the TEI to be applied to the charter school's BSL would be in FY 2008.

Local Government Impact

None

1/17/06